

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 02272 141047Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /066 W

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P R 150945Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6000

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2272

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP, LY, XF

SUBJECT: PLEBISCITE SCHEDULED FOR THE SOUTH

REF: (A) MANILA 1818; (B) TRIPOLI 0146; (C) MANILA 1433

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ANNOUNCED A PLEBISCITE FOR THE 13 SOUTHERN PROVINCES FOR FEB. 21 TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THESE PROVINCES WILL WISH TO JOIN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION CITED IN THE DEC. 23 TRIPOLI AGREEMENT. THE GOP IS PASSING THE WORD THAT THE HOLDING OF THE PLEBISCITE HAS THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES CURRENTLY MEETING IN THE SECOND ROUND OF TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS, BUT OTHER INDICATIONS ARE THAT NUR MISUARI REMAINS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE PLEBISCITE. MARCOS MAY HAVE DECIDED TO FORCE THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME IN THE HOPES THAT QADHAFI WILL INDUCE NUR MISUARI TO GO ALONG.

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2. ON FEB. 11 PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT A PLEBISCITE WILL BE HELD ON FEB. 21 IN THE 13 SOUTHERN PROVINCES SPECIFIED IN THE DEC. 23 TRIPOLI AGREEMENT TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THEM WOULD WISH TO JOIN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION CITED IN THE AGREEMENT. THE PRESIDENT DIRECTED DFA TO NOTIFY THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF THE HOLDING OF THE

PLEBISCITE SO THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE NOW IN MINDANAO OVERSEEING THE CEASEFIRE COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO ACT AS OBSERVERS. THE PLEBISCITE WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE GOP'S COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC).

3. IN A DISCUSSION FEB. 12 DFA UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT NUR MISUARI HAD APPROVED THE PLEBISCITE LAST WEDNESDAY (FEB. 9).

4. ADDRESSING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BATASAN BAYAN ON FEB. 14, PRESIDENT MARCOS NOTED THAT WHILE THE DECISION TO FIX THE PLEBISCITE DATE WAS APPARENTLY IN HASTE, IT WAS THE RESULT OF CONVERSATIONS NOW GOING ON IN TRIPOLI. HE INDICATED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY IN TRIPOLI HAD AGREED THAT THE PLEBISCITE SHOULD BE HELD AND THAT THE RESULTS SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE TRIPOLI MEETING BEFORE ITS PLANNED CONCLUSION ON MARCH 3.

5. COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING REPORTS THAT THE PARTIES MEETING IN TRIPOLI, INCLUDING NUR MISUARI, HAVE AGREED ON THE DETAILS OF A PLEBISCITE, THERE ARE INDICATIONS FROM OTHER GOP QUARTERS THAT ALL IS NOT GOING SMOOTHLY IN THE SECOND ROUND IN LIBYA. THESE SOURCES SUGGEST THAT NUR MISUARI IN PARTICULAR REMAINS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO A PLEBISCITE. IF SO, MARCOS APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED TO FORCE THE PLEBISCITE ISSUE AT THIS TIME--TO HELP LIMIT THE "CHRISTIAN BACKLASH"--IN THE HOPE THAT QADHAFI/AL-TREKI WILL IN THE END INDUCE
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NUR MISUARI'S ACCEPTANCE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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